(617)

CA Press Guidance
November 29, 1978

DEPARTMENT QUERIES RE OTHER
RELIGIOUS GROUPS SIMILAR TO THE PEOPLE'S TEMPLE

Q: Has the Department of State queried its posts about the presence of religious groups similar to the People's Temple in their areas?

A: The Department has not made such a request. Investigation of the religious activities of Americans abroad is not a proper function of the Department of State. Indeed, the Department of State is precluded by law (the Privacy Act of 1974, 5 U.S.C. 552a) from maintaining records on how individuals choose to exercise their constitutional guarantees of freedom of religion and freedom of association.

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